

# Survivor Series 2017 Preview

This is always one of my favorite shows of the year but my goodness they've stacked the heck out of this one. Over the last two weeks, this show has gone from looking pretty mediocre to one of the biggest cards they've put together in a long time. With the champion vs. champion matches and the normal elimination matches, there's a lot of potential here. Let's get to it.

## Kickoff Show: Cruiserweight Title: Enzo Amore(c) vs. Kalisto

We've seen this one a few times now and this seems like the final showdown between the two of them. Amore and Kalisto traded the title back and forth and now it's time for a new challenger to come along. On paper this should be a one sided match as Kalisto is far more talented and athletic than Amore, though that's not always as simple as it sounds.

Since he's the only thing of value on "205 Live" at the moment, of course I'm taking Amore to win here. He's just a bigger deal than Kalisto, who came off like a challenger of the month rather than someone who could take the title long term. Odds are someone interferes to help Amore retain and we move on to a new challenger on Tuesday. Perhaps Cedric Alexander or the debuting Hideo Itami perhaps? But yeah Amore retains.

## Shield vs. New Day

I've said it before and I'll say it again here: this is a dream match. People don't give it the credit that it deserves as it's a thrown together match, but this really is one of the biggest matches WWE could put on. Both teams are among the biggest trios in WWE history (with Shield pretty firmly on top) and they're both probably guaranteed to go to the Hall of Fame one day.

Now of course I'm taking Shield, as they're freshly back together and need a signature win as they're being reestablished. New Day has shown that they can take a loss here and there without really falling down the card. At the same time, Shield losing a big match is a legitimately big deal, which is why there's no need to have New Day go over here. Shield wins, likely via a spear to Kofi Kingston.

### **Baron Corbin vs. The Miz**

This is the first of three champion vs. champion matches with the battle of the midcard titles. These two have actually bickered a bit on Twitter, which is about all the build this match has been able to warrant. I'm not a fan of having champions facing off but it's not like WWE can come up with anything else but this simple idea.

I'll take Miz to win, likely due to some interference to distract Corbin. Of course that makes the Intercontinental Title seem more important than the US Title, but that's hardly a shocking revelation. Miz is getting close and closer to the most combined days as Intercontinental Champion of all time, which would be quite the accomplishment for someone who was never supposed to amount to anything. Miz wins, even though no one should.

### **Charlotte vs. Alexa Bliss**

We'll continue with the champion vs. champion theme here as we look at the Women's Champions battle. Charlotte picked up the Smackdown Women's Title earlier this week in a big emotional moment, thanks to the return of her father Ric Flair. Bliss is no slouch though and has surprised a lot of people with several of her wins.

However, Bliss is just holding the title until Asuka can kick her head in, meaning Charlotte wins here. I can't imagine Charlotte losing so soon after winning the title, even in a match that doesn't mean all that much. Bliss needs the win

more to help build her up for Asuka but there's too much going against her in this case.

### Raw Women's Team vs. Smackdown Women's Team

This comes down to the difference in talent. At the end of the day, "Monday Night Raw" is completely stacked here with captain Alicia Fox as the only weak link. Over on "Smackdown Live", as was the case last year, it's Becky Lynch and four warm bodies (though Naomi has improved dramatically) and that's probably not enough to carry things.

Barring a big surprise, I can't imagine the "Smackdown Live" women have enough to pull this off. How are you supposed to combat two of the Four Horsewomen, Asuka and Nia Jax? With Carmella? Or maybe Tamina? There's just not enough firepower on the "Smackdown Live" side to pull this off, especially with Charlotte out of the picture.

### The Bar vs. Usos

Another champion vs. champion match here and another case where the champions haven't even held their belts for two weeks yet. This has the potential to be a heck of a fight, though I have doubts about how well WWE is going to pull it off. Somehow on a four hour show they might manage to not give it enough time, which is where a match like this should shine.

I'll go with the Usos here, for the sole reason of "Smackdown Live" needing to pick up some wins. The Usos have the longer and better resume, though the Bar has gotten a lot more tolerable in the last year. Let them have some time and a hot finish and this will work as well as it needs to, even if there's no reason to have two tag divisions at the moment (or ever for the most part).

### Raw Men's Team vs. Smackdown Men's Team

Two weeks ago, this match was looking pretty boring. Now,

Samoa Joe and Braun Strowman, who were fighting each other in the main event of "Summerslam 2017" a few weeks ago are (very arguably) fighting for the right to be the SEVENTH most successful wrestler in a match. This match is absolutely stacked and has one of the highest levels of talent you'll ever see.

I'll take "Smackdown Live" to win here though as you can have Strowman get counted out and Randy Orton score some quick falls off RK0's to get rid of some names. Then if "Monday Night Raw" wins the overall series, Kurt Angle can crawl back to Stephanie McMahon (the real boss of the company) and keep his job. In other words, McMahon looks powerful and everyone else looks like a goon. As usual.

### **Brock Lesnar vs. AJ Styles**

And hey, another dream match! Again, two weeks ago we were looking at Lesnar vs. Jinder Mahal and now we're getting this beauty instead. Styles is someone who seems capable of pulling a classic out of Lesnar and, assuming it's not Suplex City all over again, this should be a heck of a fight. Hopefully Lesnar doesn't get lazy again, though I think Styles will be enough to avoid that problem.

I'll still take Lesnar to win here, as he's just a bigger deal than Styles. If nothing else we don't want Lesnar looking weak for his match five months from now against Reigns, because that's really what so much of this is all about. At least we can get a great match on the way there though, which is a lot more than I would have guessed coming into the previous match.

### **Overall Thoughts**

I don't remember the last time a Survivor Series was this stacked. Actually I don't remember the last time almost any show was this stacked. There are a ton of huge matches on here and that could make for a heck of a night. Even if WWE screws up some of them, there's more than enough good stuff around to

make up for it. I'm coming into this with high hopes and hopefully they nail it.

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